inland water transport in the form of riverine port having natural advantage in inland water transport and what is the quantum of it;

(b) whether there is a huge traffic congestion in the city adjoining the river due to inland water transport; and

(c) what are the measures conceived to avert the traffic congestion?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Kolkata Port is the only riverine major port in the country. The volume of inland water traffic handled at the port was 4,60,000 tonnes during 2004-05.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Declaration of National Highways in Punjab

2545. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of highways in Punjab which have been delcared as National Highways under the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans and total length of National Highways till date; and

(b) the funds allocated for the upgradation and maintenance of the highways of Punjab under the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) During the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans Period, six numbers of State roads have been declared as National Highways, which are NH-64, NH-64 Extension NH-70, NH-71, NH-72 and NH-95.

Total length of National Highways in Punjab till date is 1739 Kms.

(b) The funds allocated for the upgradation and maintenance of National Highways in Punjab for the Ninth Five Year Plan is Rs. 272.04 crore and Rs. 88.76 crore respectively and the corresponding figures in the Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 270.31 crore and Rs. 86.59 crore respectively.